

KA 'IMI 'IKE

THE SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE

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Hawaiian Religion & Mythology:

Hawaiian Religion was a polytheistic belief system, based on creating harmonious relationships between *nā akua* and the *honua*. Highly trained members of the community (*kahuna*), were raised as apprentices and charged with the responsibility of being the *alaka'i* in cultivating the relationships between *nā akua*, *nā kanaka* and *ka honua*. Although the *kahuna* served as the *alaka'i*, each man was responsible for creating and maintaining the relationship between the gods and his environment (*ahupua'a*, *'ohana*, etc.). While the Hawaiian religion referred to many gods and deities, we are most familiar with the four main gods, Kāne, Kū, Kanaloa, and Lono. Being the gods of a higher stature, there were also many others including occupational, place, and *'ohana* gods, as well as protectors of individuals (*'aumakua*) and lesser demigods. Even though there were as many as 40,000 gods, Hawaiians were diligent and disciplined in praying to all *nā akua* to give thanks and other purposes.

Vocabulary:

- 1) Mana – supernatural or divine power
- 2) 'Aumakua – family or personal god, deified ancestors who are personified through animate and inanimate objects
- 3) Honua – earth (all encompassing aspects of the earth, literally and figuratively)
- 4) Kāne – one of the four leading gods who was charged with overseeing procreation, water, and animals
- 5) Kū – one of the four leading gods who was charged mainly with war, but also some fishes, shrubs and trees
- 6) Lono – one of the four leading gods, charged with the weather, thunder, lightning, earthquakes, rainbows, rain, wind and some plants
- 8) Kanaloa – one of the four leading gods, charged with the ocean and sea dwellers
- 9) Laka – goddess of hula
- 10) Heiau – pre-christian place of worship, shrine, stone platforms for religious ceremonies
- 11) Pule - prayer
- 12) Kapu – taboo, prohibition, sacred, forbidden

- 13) Wahipana – sacred place
- 14) Pono – righteousness, goodness, morality, proper
- 15) Ho'okupu – offering

'Olelo Hawai'i:

This week, we will learn how to speak Hawaiian in a past tense using “Ua.”

Sentence structure:

Past tense	Verb	Subject	Direct object
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Ua lawai'a 'o Maui i nā mokupuni.
I fished on the island of Maui.

Ua ha'awi 'au i ka ho'okupu ma ka heiau.
I gave an offering at the heiau.

Ua mahalo aku 'au i ko'u 'aumakua.
I thanked my 'aumakua.

Ua nīhau 'au i ke kahuna no ke kōkua.
I asked the kahuna for help.

'Olelo No'eau:

I komo no ka ha'I pua'a i ka pa'a 'ole o ka pā.
Other people's pigs come in when the fence is not kept in good repair.

When you behave well and tend to your own business, no sorcerer can send his evil gods to destroy you, for your own gods will give you their protection.

Ha'awina:

Name another god/deity that you are familiar with not listed above. What type of responsibility or jurisdiction did they have power over? Let's see how many we can come up with.

Email us your response at kaimiike.dc@gmail.com